

Marines SAVED ROUNDS



▲ **Freeway traffic turns north** on the southbound section of Interstate 15 that crosses the air station Oct. 26 as the Cedar Fire burns out of control. The fire—the largest in California history—burned more than 19,000 of the 23,000 acres that make up the air station, adding to the more than 275,000 total acres it had burned as of Oct. 31. The wild fires raging across California have destroyed nearly 730,000 acres in five counties, killed 20 people and displaced 100,000, destroyed more than 2,700 homes, and caused an estimated \$2 billion in damage. President Bush designated four counties major disaster areas Oct. 27., making federal money available for disaster-struck people in Los Angeles, San Bernardino, San Diego and Ventura counties. The Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society is prepared to accept offers of assistance for military families. To contact San Diego-area offices of the NMCRS call (619) 556-8283 or (858) 577-1807. To contact the San Diego Red Cross call (619) 542-7400. For the complete story on Miramar's reaction to the Cedar Fire visit MCNews at <http://www.usmc.mil/marinelink/mcn2000.nsf/lookupstoryref/20031027193843>. Photo by Sgt. M. P. Shelato

Give a Toy; Make a Difference in a Child's Life

The U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is actively collecting new, unwrapped toys now through December to distribute them as Christmas gifts to needy children in your community. The program's goal is to deliver a message of hope to needy youngsters that will motivate them to grow into responsible, productive, patriotic citizens and community leaders. To do your part to make a child's Christmas brighter look for a Toys for Tots collection

center in your community or visit their Web site at <http://www.toysfortots.org/2002/index.html>. **M**

M



Marines Remember Beirut

Early on a Sunday morning more than 20 years ago, a bomb-laden truck broke through a checkpoint, crashed into the 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regimental Battalion Landing Team barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, and detonated. The blast killed 241 and seriously injured another 80 Marines, sailors and soldiers while they slept. It was the first volley of the Global War on Terrorism. The Beirut attack of Oct. 23, 1983, was the most deadly act of terrorism prior to Sept. 11, 2001—the Marines have not forgotten. Semper Fi! **M**



A Message from the Commandant of the Marine Corps

This year we celebrate the 228th anniversary of the founding of our Corps. As always, it is an occasion for remembrance, proud traditions, and joyful camaraderie. The events of the past year have called for great sacrifices from many Marines and their families. While the Global War on Terrorism will continue to demand the best from each of us, it is important that we join with our fellow Marines, families and friends to celebrate our Corps' special culture and unique warrior ethos.

This past year, Marines demonstrated once again that they are the most important entity on any battlefield. Lethal weapons and advanced technologies provide us unique advantages, but educated warriors ultimately determine victory in combat—not machines. During Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, our small unit leaders' skills, adaptability and flexibility produced victory on uncertain and at times chaotic battlefields. We proved once again the power of integrated ground-air-logistics teams as well as the importance of every Marine being first and foremost a rifleman.

Our special spirit is evident not only in battle; it is evident in the faithful performance of demanding duties by countless Marines at home and abroad. Every Marine makes a vital contribution to the ability of our Corps to project and sustain credible combat power. Moreover, the willingness and readiness of all Marines to accept and accomplish any mission is central to our success and a hallmark of our warrior ethos.

The culture that defines the Marine Corps is nurtured by our traditions. In celebrating our heritage, we strengthen the linkages to a glorious history and recommit ourselves to upholding the standards and values given to us by past generations.

In commemorating our 228th anniversary, remain true to the spirit of the occasion. Reflect on our fallen with deep respect, observe our traditions with justifiable pride, take care of one another, and of course, celebrate those special bonds that exist among United States Marines.

Happy Birthday Marines, Semper Fidelis, and keep attacking!

M. W. Hagee General,
U.S. Marine Corps,
Commandant of the Marine Corps

LOUD & CLEAR

“The Team Marines pit crew put us out front and I just drove it on cruise control from there. The pit crew won this race for me today, they were awesome!”

— Bobby Hamilton Jr., driver of the No. 25 Team Marines Ford, after winning the Bashas' Supermarkets 200 Nov. 1.